



June 14, 2000

Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
The Portals
Washington, DC 20554

Re: GTE/Bell Atlantic Merger CC 98-184

Dear Ms. Salas:

GTE is in receipt of Covad Communications Company's (Covad) June 14, 2000 correspondence to the Commission requesting action be taken regarding GTE's maintenance window policy for its central offices. This policy is designed to protect the integrity of the public switched network and designates a window from 10:00PM to 6:00 AM for critical central office work that has the potential to cause a customer effecting service outage. As noted in Covad's letter, GTE recently strengthened its policy in Texas for all entities, including itself, due to an outage caused by work that should have been performed during the maintenance window.

GTE has been in active negotiations with Covad on this topic. GTE informed Covad last Friday, June 9, that it would modify its policy and allow substantial additional work to be done on a 24 by 7 basis. Covad requested that this change be reduced to writing and that an explanation be given regarding cabling by the following Monday, June 12. GTE complied with this request, as evidenced by the June 12 e-mail message attached to Covad's June 14 ex parte letter. Covad then responded on Tuesday, June 13, that GTE's response was too restrictive and requested a further explanation. Counsel for Covad also advised that she would try and call GTE's counsel on Wednesday, June 14, to discuss the matter. Counsel for GTE advised Covad early Wednesday morning that a formal response was being prepared. Both of these exchanges are attached. GTE's further response was sent out Wednesday afternoon, a copy of which is also attached. That response clearly shows that Covad has considerable flexibility due to GTE's policy change to construct and place equipment in our central offices on a 24 by 7 basis.

Given the foregoing, GTE is surprised that Covad chose to file a letter with the Commission complaining about this matter when the subject is under active

negotiations and substantial progress is being made. As Covad's letter indicates, the issues raised by Covad have already been brought to the attention of the Commission's Enforcement Bureau staff in the accelerated formal complaints process. Therefore, should the ongoing negotiations fail to resolve the matter the Commission's Enforcement Bureau is the appropriate forum for resolving these issues. As such, Covad's June 14, 2000 filing is inappropriate in this docket.

Sincerely,



Alan F. Ciamporcero

cc: Lawrence Strickling, Chief, Common Carrier Bureau
Michelle Carey, Chief, Policy Division, CCB
Jake Jennings, Policy Division, CCB
Julie Patterson, Policy Division, CCB
Johanna Mikes, Policy Division, CCB
Michael Jacobs, Policy Division, CCB
John Stanley, Policy Division, CCB
Frank Lamancusa, CCB
Dorothy Attwood, Office of Chairman Kennard
Kyle Dixon, Office of Commissioner Powell
Helgi Walker, Office of Commissioner Furchtgott-Roth
Jordan Goldstein, Office of Commissioner Ness
Sarah Whitesell, Office of Commissioner Tristani

Lachance, Andre (DC)

From: Parker, Tom [Tom.Parker@gte.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2000 4:27 PM
To: 'Bradley, Sarah'; Parker, Tom; 'Glenn Harris'; 'Tom Koutsky (E-mail)'
Cc: Lachance, Andre (dc); Holford, Marylin
Subject: RE: Maintenance Window

Sarah: This is in response to your E-mail below. For the reasons stated, I believe that my E-mail is consistent with our discussion of last Friday night. In order to clarify, I will first provide an explanation and then restate the E-mail answer I sent out on Monday. We conclude that most of your work can now be done on a 24 by 7 basis. Thus, I am unclear as to why you feel it is more restrictive.

The change to the GTE Maintenance Window Policy, which applies nationwide to anyone doing work in a GTE central office, is to have a method of procedure (MOP) evaluated by GTE to determine what work must be done in the maintenance window. Let me give you an example. If the CLEC is going to drill in the floor, place anchors and erect a frame adjacent to (GTE only requires 1 inch between GTE bays and CLEC cageless collocation bays) working GTE equipment, GTE may require that installation to be done during the maintenance window, depending on the type of equipment in the GTE bay. Obviously, we cannot allow construction 1 inch away from an OC 192 outside of the maintenance window. However, this will not usually be the case. The Maintenance Window Policy was written to protect the reliability of GTE's equipment and the public network. We believe the changes to the Maintenance Window Policy allow the CLECs to do a variety of work if they get the concurrence of the local manager.

I restate my E-mail of Monday as follows: Equipment can be placed, assembled, installed or removed in the bays on a 24 X 7 basis subject to an approved method of procedure (MOP) in accordance with section 3 of the practice. Local review of this MOP will determine if this activity has the potential to severely impact customer service. The following activities will still have to be performed between 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM:

- 1) Activity in the backplane area or adjacent to switching or transmission equipment;
- 2) Activity involving cable running in the central office. Cabling is defined as pulling cable down the raceways above the bays or otherwise tying down facilities in the vicinity of GTE backplanes;
- 3) Activity related to power;
- 4) Activity that requires the installation or removal of equipment (including cabling) above or adjacent to in-service equipment that has the potential to severely impact customer service.

In discussions with our engineers, we believe that the change in our policy substantially increases your ability to work in the central office. Under the old policy, the work had to be done within the window. The new policy allows major activity on a 24 by 7 basis. For purposes of illustration, the change in the work that COVAD can perform on a 24 by 7 basis in a cageless environment is as follows:

Legend:

M = Maintenance Window

O = outside of Maintenance Window

X= now allowed under new policy.

Otherwise stated, a "X" and an "O" on the same line shows a change in the policy.

- 1) Visit the site and plan/engineer the equipment required (O)
- 2) Order equipment (O)
- 3) Receive the equipment at Central office (O) (X) (assuming room is available in the central office)
- 4) Unpack and inventory the equipment (O) (X) (assuming room is available in the central office)
- 5) Install the equipment in the bays (O) (X) (could be "M" if in adjacent to working GTE equipment)
- 6) Cross connect internal equipment (O) (X) (could be "M" if in backplane area)
- 7) Connect equipment to GTE's network (M)
- 8) Power-up their equipment (M)
- 9) Test equipment (O)
- 10) Perform normal maintenance (O)

Note:

GTE will run the cabling, including power cables, from our central office to CLEC equipment and hand it off at a designated location. There should not be any need to be in our overhead cabling. Interconnection normally is a short time frame.

Please advise if this satisfies your concerns.

TP

Parker, Tom

From: Parker, Tom
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2000 9:31 AM
To: 'Bradley, Sarah'
Subject: RE: Maintenance Window

Sarah: I am working on a response. Be back soon.

TP

-----Original Message-----

From: Bradley, Sarah [mailto:sbradley@covad.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2000 2:50 AM
To: Parker, Tom; 'Sarah Bradley'; 'Glenn Harris'; Tom Koutsky (E-mail)
Cc: Lachance, Andre (dc); Holford, Marilyn
Subject: RE: Maintenance Window

Dear Tom,

My understanding of the phone call on Friday was that all activity was to be permitted 24/7 as our contract allows, with the exception of "cabling" and "powering up." The purpose of your email was to further define these terms, but I read this email as adding activities which would be limited to the maintenance window.

Please explain and include Tom Koutsky, if by email.
Otherwise, I shall try calling you on Wednesday.

Sarah Kim Bradley
Counsel
Covad Communications
4250 Burton Street
Santa Clara, CA 95054
408.987.1120 (phone)
408.987.1111 (fax)
sbradley@covad.com <mailto:sbradley@covad.com>

> -----Original Message-----

> **From:** Parker, Tom [mailto:Tom.Parker@gte.com]
> **Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2000 4:14 PM
> **To:** 'Sarah Bradley'; 'Glenn Harris'
> **Cc:** Lachance, Andre (dc); Holford, Marilyn
> **Subject:** Maintenance Window
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>
> Sarah: This e-mail will confirm our conversation of late
> Friday regarding
> modification of GTE's current maintenance window policy.
> Please note that
> I am working on a better understanding of cabling requirements. What
> appears below is my understanding as of Friday. I was not
> able to hook up
> with the right engineers today.
>
> As I related on the Friday call, under the modification of
> the practice,
> equipment can be placed, assembled, installed or removed in
> the bays on a 24
> X 7 basis. The following activity must be performed between
> the 10:00 PM to
> 6:00 AM maintenance window: 1) Activity in the backplane area
> or adjacent to
> switching or transmission equipment; 2) Activity involving

- > the raceways
- > above the bays or otherwise tying down facilities in the
- > vicinity of GTE
- > backplanes; 3) Activity that requires installation or removal
- > (including
- > cabling) above adjacent to or above in-service equipment that has the
- > potential to severely impact customer service requires the
- > development and
- > approval of a method of procedure (MOP) in accordance with
- > section 3 of the
- > practice. Local review of this MOP will determine if this
- > activity must be
- > performed during the maintenance window.
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- > TP
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